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# M.S. in Criminal Justice Brochure

Nova Southeastern University

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## NSUWorks Citation

Nova Southeastern University, "M.S. in Criminal Justice Brochure" (2000). *College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Course Catalogs*. Paper 23.

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# Master of Science in Criminal Justice

*An interdisciplinary  
approach to criminal  
justice programs  
offered online*



Criminal Justice Institute

# The Criminal Justice Institute

Law enforcement, crime prevention, and the justice system have become extremely complex and sophisticated, drawing on broad bodies of knowledge such as law, psychology, systems theory, business and administration, medical sciences, human factors, physical fitness education, and others. The nature of these criminal justice activities requires multidisciplinary perspectives, integrating efforts that emphasize training and education, research, and service activities.

The skills, knowledge bases, and judgments made by those involved in administering criminal justice programs require a high level of sophistication and expertise. The Criminal Justice Institute (CJI) at Nova Southeastern University facilitates college, center, and school initiatives, coordinating existing and future criminal justice work, and establishes Nova Southeastern University as a leader in addressing emerging social priorities.

## The Program

For more than a decade, research has indicated the number of persons applying for positions in law enforcement has risen at a considerably faster rate than the number of positions available. The roles that law enforcement personnel play require a more advanced and broader understanding of criminal justice, law, behavioral science, administration, leadership, and conflict resolution.

Data indicate better-educated law enforcement personnel are likely to be more effective problem solvers and better communicators with the public. While many law enforcement departments use a high-school diploma as a minimum entrance requirement, professionals actually hired will continue to pursue advanced degrees with additional skills, abilities, and experiences.

The master of science in criminal justice trains those interested in law enforcement and the justice system through an interdisciplinary focus. The program prepares students through the core curriculum and allows for specialty training through various tracks. This facilitates choice for students and fosters the development of specialized expertise.

Additionally, students may choose among elective courses available at the graduate level throughout NSU.





# Program Objectives

The program will provide students with

1. a solid background in the theoretical, historical, public policy, behavioral, and political perspectives related to criminal justice
2. an introduction to the organizational structure, operation, administration, and management of the criminal justice system at the federal, state, and local levels
3. an in-depth knowledge of the legal issues that govern criminal justice activities, including fundamental principles and concepts of criminal and civil law, rules of law and evidence, and state and constitutional laws and their development
4. a foundation in evaluation methods of criminal justice programming
5. special knowledge in an area of choice including, but not limited to, business management, psychology, organizational leadership, substance abuse, conflict resolution, community policing, and information management security

## Program Delivery

Understanding the demanding scheduling needs of law enforcement personnel, the program is available online. The delivery may be customized for individual department needs.



## Undergraduate Program

For those without an undergraduate degree who are considering the M.S. program, a special track provides an opportunity to complete the undergraduate degree at the Farquhar Center for Undergraduate Studies. Such candidates will complete their undergraduate degree, and immediately enter the M.S. program. This creates a seamless transition and the possible award of dual-credit for some courses, which expedites degree completion.

[www.cji.nova.edu](http://www.cji.nova.edu)



# Faculty

Faculty members teaching in the CJI, many of whom are members of the CJI, bring diverse knowledge and experience to the classroom. All faculty members possess graduate degrees in their fields. In addition, some hold special credentials as certified police officers and are sought as experts/lecturers throughout the United States.

## Admission Requirements

1. Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution
2. Grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher in the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate course work, or a total score of 950 or higher on the combined verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) taken within the past five years, or other similar measures
3. Relevant professional experience or accomplishment
4. Referral from contracting agency (if customized on-site program)
5. Prerequisite course work that includes college-level math (3 credits), English (3 credits), and behavioral science (3 credits)

Applicants will also be required to submit a brief statement of interest in the program, articulating career plans, capabilities, special achievements, etc., accompanied by letters of reference. Students will be admitted to graduate study and accepted for degree candidacy after successful completion of the core with a GPA of 3.0 or better.



## For more information

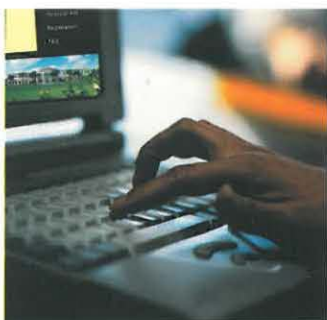
Web site: [www.cji.nova.edu](http://www.cji.nova.edu)

Email: [cji@nova.edu](mailto:cji@nova.edu)

Phone: (954) 262-7001

### NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.



Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097: Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.

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# Curriculum (36 credits required for total program.)

## Core Courses (required of all criminal justice students) (12 credits)

- Survey Issues in Criminal Justice
- Social Administration of Criminal Justice
- Legal Issues in Criminal Justice
- Program Evaluation in Criminal Justice

## Specialty Track (choose one of the following)

**Track I, Organizational Leadership:** Offered through the Fischler Graduate School of Education and Human Services (15 credits)

- Electronic Tools for Leaders
- Leadership and Excellence
- Managing Change
- Organizational Development and Futuring
- Current Organizational Issues and Trends

**Track II, Behavioral Science:** Offered through the Center for Psychological Studies (15 credits)

- Law Enforcement and the Mentally Disordered Offender
- Police Psychology and Criminology
- Leadership and Motivation in Police Organizations
- Police Stress and Mental Health
- Forensic Psychology

**Track III, Business Administration:** Offered through the Wayne Huizenga Graduate School of Business and Entrepreneurship (15 credits)

- 21st Century Management Practices
- The Legal, Ethical, and Social Values of Business
- Managing Organizational Behavior
- Managing Human Resources
- Independent Study

**Track IV, Public Administration:** Offered through the Wayne Huizenga Graduate School of Business and Entrepreneurship (15 credits)

- Legal, Ethical, and Social Values in the Public Sector
- 21st Century Management Practices

- Public and Nonprofit Strategic Management
- Public Sector Human Resource Management
- Leading Public Organizations

**Track V, Substance Abuse:** Offered through the Fischler Graduate School of Education and Human Services (15 credits)

- Psychopharmacology of Illicit and Licit Drugs
- Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment in the Criminal Justice System
- Substance Abuse Treatment in the Community
- Cultural Factors in Treatment with Substance Abuse Issues and the CJI
- Field Experience

**Track VI, Community Solutions and Partnership:** Offered through the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (15 credits)

- Community Systems
- Communication Strategies
- Community Mediation and Facilitations
- Community Policing and Peacebuilding
- Strategic Community Planning and Partnerships

**Track VII, Information Systems and Security:** Offered through the Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences (15 credits)

- Computer Security
- Legal and Ethical Aspects of Computing
- Electronic Commerce on the Internet
- Database Systems
- Telecommunication and Computer Networking

## Electives (9 credits)

Criminal justice students, with permission from the academic center and the Criminal Justice Institute, will be permitted to take the remaining nine credits of the 36 credits required for degree completion as electives.

## Cost

Cost per course is \$1,200.

# Master of Science in Criminal Justice



NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY  
Criminal Justice Institute  
3301 College Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796

